

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network configuration method comprising:
a first link establishing step of establishing
a wireless communication link through a first
5 encrypted communication requiring no authentication
process between an access point device and a client
terminal;

a sending step of sending the authentication
data from said access point device to said client
10 terminal in a state where the wireless communication
link through said first encrypted communication is
established;

a link discarding step of discarding the
wireless link through said first encrypted
15 communication after sending said authentication data
at said sending step; and

a second link establishing step of establishing
a wireless communication link through a second
encrypted communication requiring an authentication
20 process using the authentication data sent to said
client terminal, after discarding the link at said
link discarding step.

2. A network configuration method for a
25 communication apparatus, comprising:

a first link establishing step of establishing
a wireless communication link through a first

encrypted communication requiring no authentication process with another communication apparatus;

a sending step of sending the authentication data to said another communication apparatus in a state where the wireless link at said first link establishing step is established;

a link discarding step of discarding the wireless link established at said first link establishing step after sending said authentication data at said sending step; and

a second link establishing step of establishing a wireless communication link through a second encrypted communication requiring an authentication process using the authentication data sent to said another communication apparatus, after discarding the link at said link discarding step.

3. The network configuration method according to claim 2, further comprising a selection step of selecting a communication apparatus permitting said second encrypted communication from among other communication apparatuses with which a link is established at said first link establishing step, wherein said sending step sends said authentication data to said communication apparatus selected at said selection step.

4. The network configuration method according to claim 3, wherein said selection step comprises making said selection on the basis of the user operation.

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5. The network configuration method according to claim 2, further comprising a selection step of selecting a communication apparatus permitting said second encrypted communication from among other
10 communication apparatuses with which a link is established at said first link establishing step, and a filter setting step of setting the address filtering based on a selection at said selection step.

15 6. The network configuration method according to claim 2, wherein said second link establishing step comprises establishing a wireless communication link through said second encrypted communication in accordance with an authentication result from said
20 authentication process.

7. The network configuration method according to claim 2, wherein the authentication in said authentication process is performed by said
25 communication apparatus.

8. The network configuration method according

to claim 2, further comprising a creation step of creating the authentication data sent at said sending step.

5 9. The network configuration method according to claim 2, wherein said communication apparatus is an access point.

10 10. The network configuration method according to claim 2, wherein said authentication data sent at said sending step is effective for a fixed period of time.

15 11. A network configuration method for a communication apparatus, comprising:

 a first link establishing step of establishing a wireless communication link through a first encrypted communication requiring no authentication process with another communication apparatus;

20 a receiving step of receiving the authentication data from said another communication apparatus in a state where the wireless link at said first link establishing step is established;

 a link discarding step of discarding the wireless link established at said first link establishing step after receiving said authentication data at said receiving step; and

a second link establishing step of establishing
a wireless communication link through a second
encrypted communication requiring an authentication
process using the authentication data received from
5 said another communication apparatus, after
discarding the link at said link discarding step.

12. The network configuration method for a
communication apparatus according to claim 11,
10 wherein the authentication in said authentication
process is performed by said another communication
apparatus.

13. A communication system comprising:
15 first link establishing means for establishing
a wireless communication link through a first
encrypted communication requiring no authentication
process between an access point device and a client
terminal;

20 sending means for sending the authentication
data from said access point device to said client
terminal in a state where the wireless link through
said first encrypted communication is established;

link discarding means for discarding the
25 wireless link through said first encrypted
communication after said authentication data is sent
by said sending means; and

second link establishing means for establishing
a wireless communication link through a second
encrypted communication requiring an authentication
process using the authentication data sent to said
5 client terminal, after the link is discarded by said
link discarding means.

14. A communication apparatus comprising:

first link establishing means for establishing
10 a wireless communication link through a first
encrypted communication requiring no authentication
process with another communication apparatus;

sending means for sending the authentication
data to said another communication apparatus in a
15 state where the wireless link is established by said
first link establishing means;

link discarding means for discarding the
wireless link established by said first link
establishing means after said authentication data is
20 sent by said sending means; and

second link establishing means for establishing
a wireless communication link through a second
encrypted communication requiring an authentication
process using the authentication data sent to said
25 another communication apparatus, after the link is
discarded by said link discarding means.

15. A communication apparatus, comprising:

first link establishing means for establishing
a wireless communication link through a first
encrypted communication requiring no authentication
5 process with another communication apparatus;

receiving means for receiving the
authentication data from said another communication
apparatus in a state where the wireless link is
established by said first link establishing means;

10 link discarding means for discarding the
wireless link established by said first link
establishing means after said authentication data is
received by said receiving means; and

second link establishing means for establishing
15 a wireless communication link through a second
encrypted communication requiring an authentication
process using the authentication data received from
said another communication apparatus, after the link
is discarded by said link discarding means.

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